

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

OIC-02 /171 W

-----119691 141502Z /43

R 141408Z NOV 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3017

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 10291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: US/UK BILATERAL ON LOS STRATEGY, LONDON,
NOV 7, 1977

SUMMARY: AT NOV 7 US-UK CONSULTATIONS ON LOS,
INFORMATION WAS EXCHANGED WITH REGARD TO RECENT LOS
CONTACTS, AND GENERALLY SIMILAR VIEWS ON LOS STRATEGY
WERE DISCUSSED. BRITISH MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR US
SUPPORT OF THE IRISH FORMULA ON DELIMITATION OF
CONTINENTAL MARGIN, TO WHICH US ASSENTED. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADORS RICHARDSON AND ALDRICH AND MESSRS
JAMES, KATZ AND MEYER CONSULTED IN LONDON ON NOV 7
WITH MIN STATE MABON (DEPT OF ENERGY), PARLIAMENTARY
UNDERSECRETARY LUARD (FLO), LOS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR
AMBASSADOR ARCULUS AND LOS STAFF.

2. BRITISH REVIEWED EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED SINCE
THE SEPTEMBER 1977 US/UK BILATERAL, AS FOLLOWS:
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A. AFTER MEETING WITH AMERASINGHE, ARCULUS FELT
THAT HIS IDEA FOR AN INFORMAL PLENARY AT THE 7TH
SESSION WAS GOOD BUT THAT HIS PLAN FOR FORMALIZING THE
TEXT WAS UNDESIRABLE.

B. HAMEED HAD INFORMED LUARD THAT AMERASINGHE CAN

STAY ON AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE THROUGH MAY.

C. BHUSHAN TOLD LUARD IN INDIA OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP IF A NEW TEXT IS PRODUCED.

D. AN OCT 12, 1977 EEC MEETING JUDGED THAT (1) THE ENGO TEXT WAS UNDESIRABLE, (2) THERE MUST BE AN EEC CLAUSE IN THE TREATY, (3) AMERASINGHE SHOULD CHAIR THE INTERSESSIONAL, (4) THERE SHOULD NOT BE PREMATURE FORMULATION OF A NEW TEXT, (5) THERE SHOULD NOT BE VOTING AND (6) THERE SHOULD NOT BE A FLOOD OF AMENDMENTS. THE EC PRESIDENT (BELGIAN) INFORMED AMERASINGHE OF THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING.

E. IN MEETING THE RUSSIANS, LATTER STATED THAT THE USSR WAS GOING TO BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE G-5 AND THAT THE USSR THOUGHT THAT ALL THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAD A COMMON INTEREST IN THE TREATY.

F. EVENSEN TOLD UK THAT HE WANTS TO CHAIR THE INTERSESSIONAL GROUP WHICH MEETS AFTER THE NOVEMBER GENEVA MEETING FOR PURPOSES OF FORMULATING A TEXT FOR PRESENTATION TO AMERASINGHE. EVENSEN ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED (ARCULUS DID NOT KNOW BY WHOM) TO VISIT DAKAR IN MARCH TO EXPLAIN THE NEW TEXT TO THE G-77.
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3. WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING MEETINGS, ARCULUS STATED THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE UK IS CONCERNED THAT THE MEETINGS WILL NOT BE FRUITFUL IF THE SOVIETS INTEND TO USE THE CONFERENCE AS A WAY TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE G-77 RATHER THAN SERIOUSLY TO SEEK A TREATY;

B. AMERASINGHE'S EXPERTS WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE TEXTS TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE NOT MISUNDERSTOOD AS NEGOTIATED TEXTS;

C. THE ASIANS WOULD BE THE BEST GROUP TO CATALYZE A SOLUTION;

D. THERE IS RIVALRY BETWEEN EVENSEN AND AMERASINGHE AND DIFFERENCES OVER WHO SHOULD CHAIR THE INTERSESSIONAL;

E. AMERASINGHE LIKES NEGOTIATION BETTER THAN THE EVENSEN METHOD OF PRODUCING DRAFTS; AND

F. THE PROBLEMS OF THE LL/GDS ARE PERHAPS BEST
LEFT TO THE END OF THE CONFERENCE.

4. RICHARDSON DISAGREED ON THIS LAST POINT, STATING THAT
THE LL/GDS COULD HELP FIND A SOLUTION ON SEABEDS. HE
FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT
THE USSR WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE BUT THAT THE SOVIET
ATTITUDE WOULD BECOME CLEARER AT THE G-5 MEETING.
REGARDING EVENSEN, RICHARDSON STATED THAT THE PROBLEM
WITH AN EVENSEN GROUP WAS THAT ITS RESULTS COULD BE
CONSIDERED NEGOTIATED; IT WOULD BE BETTER IF AMERASINGHE
CONVENED A GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO CONCENTRATED ON
TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 10291

5. WHEN ISSUE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS RAISED,
MABON EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT, WITHOUT AN ACCEPTABLE
CONTINENTAL SHELF ARTICLE, THE UK WILL NOT SIGN A TREATY.

THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE UK CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE IS THE ROCKALL TROUGH, WHICH CONTAINS OIL. MABON STATED THAT THE MARGINEERS' TEXT IS THE ONLY REALISTIC LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT AND, WITH HELP FROM THE US, THIS TEXT CAN BE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE SOME BILATERAL DIFFERENCES ON ROCKALL BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE UK, BUT BOTH COUNTRIES AGREE ON THE IRISH FORMULA AND WILL SETTLE THEIR BILATERAL DIFFERENCES AT A LATER TIME.

6. RICHARDSON REPLIED THAT THE US IS A MEMBER OF THE MARGINEERS GROUP AND THAT THE US SUPPORTS THE IRISH FORMULA. THE US IS CONCERNED HOWEVER ABOUT PERCENTAGES FOR REVENUE SHARING. LUARD REPLIED THAT THE UK IS WILLING TO EXAMINE THE LATTER SUBJECT FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE PRESENT MARGINEERS' TEXT REMAINS UNCHANGED
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OTHERWISE.

7. THE MEETING ENDED WITH A SHORT DISCUSSION OF UNILATERAL MINING LEGISLATION. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON ENCOURAGED THE UK TO BEGIN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, BUT LUARD EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO DO SO.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA10291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770420-1040
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From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771163/aaaacbxk.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 605075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/UK BILATERAL ON LOS STRATEGY, LONDON, NOV 7, 1977 SUMMARY: AT NOV 7 US-UK CONSULTATIONS ON LOS
TAGS: PLOS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2f0f31a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009